

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02570 251056Z
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1483

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2570

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR IS
SUBJ: SHILO SETTLEMENT

REF.: STATE 49516

1. BEFORE GOING INTO THE RING AGAIN WITH BEGIN ON
SHILO, I NEED TO UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY FROM YOU
WHAT OUR STRATEGY IS ON THIS UNHAPPY ISSUE. FROM
PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS I SENSE THAT YOU WANT ME TO HOLD
BEGIN'S FEET TO THE FIRE REPEATEDLY TO SOFTEN HIM UP
FOR HIS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON. I AM PERFECTLY PREPARED
TO DO THIS IF THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE AFTER, THOUGH I DO
NOT BELIEVE IT WILL CHANGE HIS ABSOLUTE
REFUSAL TO USE FORCE WITH THE SETTLERS.

2. IF WE ARE
TRYING TO REMIND HIM THAT HE DOES NOT KEEP COMMITMENTS
TO THE UNITED STATES, THAT MAY HAVE SOME MARGINAL
VALUE, BUT IT ALSO BRINGS OUT THE MOST AGGRESSIVELY
DEFENSIVE REBUTTALS ABOUT ALLEGED US FAILURES TO
KEEP OTHER KINDS OF COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL; ITS UTILITY
IN OUR OVERALL STRATEGY IS THEREFORE QUESTIONABLE.

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3. IF THE PURPOSE IS TO BUILD A RECORD OF FIRM DEMARCHES
WHICH WE CAN CITE PUBLICLY IN THE FUTURE, THAT MAY WELL
BE A VALID OBJECTIVE. BUT IF THAT IS THE REASON, I WOULD
LIKE TO HAVE MORE DISCRETION AS TO WHEN TO MAKE THESE
DEMARCHES. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE IN DEEP WATER HERE
AT THE MOMENT ON THE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT OVERALL QUESTION

OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND ATHERTON'S EFFORTS TO MOVE
BEGIN ON THE QUESTION OF "WITHDRAWAL ON ALL THREE
FRONTS." I FRANKLY DO NOT THINK BEGIN WILL REACT MORE
FAVORABLY ON THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE IF I USE ROY'S
NEXT MEETING TO HIT HIM AGAIN ON SHILO.

4. NOTHING NEW HAS HAPPENED AT SHILO SINCE MY MEETING
ON THE 14TH SO FAR AS I KNOW, AND I DO NOT THINK HE WILL
REACT ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN
HE DID AT THAT TIME TO ANOTHER DEMARCHE. MY RECOMMENDA-
TION IS TO LEAVE THE SHILO QUESTION FOR ME TO TAKE UP
AT PERIODIC INTERVALS TO KEEP THE RECORD PERFECTLY
CLEAR, BUT NOT TO LOAD UP THIS PERIOD OF ROY'S DIFFICULT
NEGOTIATIONS WITH FURTHER FRUITLESS EXCHANGES ON THIS
ISSUE. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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